

# **Afghanistan War Commission Act of 2021**

Rep. Andy Kim (D-NJ), Rep. Peter Meijer (R-MI)

*Endorsed by: Concerned Veterans for America, VoteVets, and Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (LAVA)*

The collapse of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces and the dissolution of the Afghan government are the culmination of 20 years of failed American policy in Afghanistan. This failure has spanned four administrations, 11 Congresses and both parties. After the loss of 2,461 American service members, more than 20,000 wounded Americans and as much as 2 trillion dollars spent on the War in Afghanistan, it is imperative that our nation conducts a deep introspection of the United States government's involvement in Afghanistan since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. This introspection must be comprehensive, objective and non-partisan.

The bipartisan Afghanistan War Commission Act of 2021, led by Representatives Andy Kim (NJ-03) and Peter Meijer (MI-03) in the House and Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) in the Senate, would establish a non-partisan, independent commission to conduct a comprehensive examination of the War in Afghanistan and deliver actionable recommendations to ensure the United States never repeats the same mistakes.

The bipartisan Afghanistan War Commission Act would ensure the following:

- *The Commission will be comprehensive.* It will examine all U.S. combat operations, irregular warfare operations, intelligence actions, diplomatic activities and the interagency decision-making and coordinating processes used in the War in Afghanistan. It will span the entirety of the War, from the September 11, 2001 attacks until the conclusion of the military evacuation on August 30, 2021.
- *The Commission will investigate strategic decisions.* It will study the effectiveness of congressional oversight efforts and the strategic decisions made throughout the course of the war.
- *The Commission will be expansive and inclusive.* Its investigation will span all relevant U.S. government agencies including the Department of Defense, Department of State and the Intelligence Community, as well as the efforts of our NATO allies.
- *The Commission will be non-partisan, professional and independent.* Its members will be chosen in equal numbers by the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the House and Senate committees of jurisdiction for Armed Services, Intelligence and Foreign Affairs, and majority and minority leadership from both chambers. Commissioners will be experienced policy professionals with no direct history of involvement in strategic decision-making in the Afghanistan War to ensure objectivity.
- *The Commission will provide a vital and actionable product.* The Afghanistan War Commission will provide lessons learned and actionable recommendations in a public and unclassified report. The report will allow the United States to learn from our experience in Afghanistan and ensure we never repeat these mistakes.